

Epperson Spring

Notes

Epperson

Spring

Who was it named for?

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SIDNEY HYRUM AND MARY JANE ROBEY EPPERSON



EPPERSON, SIDNEY HYRUM (son of Elias Epperson and Nancy Dalton of Indiana). Born 1832 in Indiana. Came to Utah 1852, David Wood company.

Married Mary Jane Robey 1853 at Provo, Utah (daughter of Jeremiah Robey and Ruth Tucker—pioneers 1852, David Wood company), who was born 1836, and came to Utah with parents. Their children: Sidney Theophilus b. Jan. 23, 1854, m. Eliza Van Wagoner; Charles Alonzo b. March 15, 1856, m. Libbie Coleman; Mary Louverna b. July 28, 1858, m. Dean Forrest; Albert b. Sept. 10, 1860; Elias Tipton b. Sept. 16, 1862, m. Janey Bonner; Viola Delphina b. Sept. 26, 1864, m. Adelbert Alexander; Robert Ross b. Jan. 20, 1867, m. Bertha Springer; William Henry b. Dec. 17, 1868; Simon S. b. Jan. 12, 1871, m. Lydia M. Smith April 4, 1889; Daniel D. b. Feb. 17, 1873; Ruth Lunica b. May 20, 1875, m. William J. Mathews; Frank S. b. June 26, 1877, m. Ada Mohlman; Elmer Drew b. Dec. 23, 1879, m. Maud Barker.

Settled at Provo 1852; moved to Snake Creek 1859. Bishop of Midway ten years. Member Utah militia; captain of Provo Valley cavalry three years; major. Indian war veteran. Farmer and stockraiser.

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Sidney Hyrum Epperson was born December 31, 1832 in Montgomery County, Indiana, a son of Elias and Nancy Lunica Dalton Epperson. He married Mary Jane Robey in 1853. Died June 1, 1913 in Midway.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson was born April 28, 1836 in Harrison County, West Virginia, a daughter of Jeremiah and Ruth Tucker Robey. She died May 15, 1915 in Midway.

In 1837 the Epperson family moved to Lipton, Iowa, where they settled on a quarter section making a new home.

In 1852 they had the urge to move further west. They purchased a farm on Honey Creek which was then being rapidly populated by the Latter-day Saints who were preparing for their exodus west to follow the main company who had earlier preceded them.

It was in Council Bluffs, Iowa where the Eppersons first heard the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of them became converts and had a desire to go to the Rocky Mountains with migrating saints, among them Sidney H. Epperson, his sister, Martha, and her husband, Henry Busenbark. They made the trek across the plains with Captain Wood's Company. They arrived in Salt Lake where they stayed but a short time, then moved on to Provo where they settled for a few years.

In 1853 Sidney H. Epperson married Mary Jane Robey, a beautiful girl from "Old Virginia" whom he met while crossing the plains. They had a family of 13 children.

His early life had prepared him for rugged pioneer life which he experienced as he built his home in Provo. Some years the crops were good, other times they were destroyed by grasshoppers and crickets. Their greatest trouble was the Indians who stole their cattle and mules and pillaged their farms. They were undaunted in their faith and courage.

Sidney became a member of the Utah Militia and was appointed Captain of the Provo Cavalry and was later commissioned Major of the U.S. Government, of Indian War Veterans. He was an outpost body-guard of Brigham Young.

In April of 1859 he decided to move north with a group of other families, Jeremiah Robey, Mark Smith, David Wood and Jesse McCarroll. They settled on the west banks of a stream called Snake Creek by a cotton-

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wood grove on the west side of the valley. At a meeting held June 26, 1862 Sidney H. Epperson was appointed Presiding Elder of the upper settlement with John Fausett, first, and Samuel Thompson, second counselors. This was his first calling to labor in the Church.

He was a man of faith and courage and felt the responsibility of leadership and unity of his group of people. They were all busily engaged in grubbing willows and sage brush, breaking land and making irrigation ditches, constructing roads, digging dugways to the canyons for fire wood, blasting rock and bridging streams. They worked hard six days a week, but rested on the Sabbath day and went to church to worship their God.

When the two settlements were forced to move together for protection from the Indians, Sidney H. Epperson helped make the survey for the new townsite.

He was appointed by Jos. Murdock to preside over the Midway Ward until April 10, 1870 when he was released.

Within a short time the log houses around the public square were removed. Sidney Epperson finished his new home of lumber in the late Autumn of 1872, and it is still standing, a monument to this worthy pioneer.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson came to Utah with her parents in August, 1852, settling in Provo, Utah. She remembered very distinctly many of the incidents of Nauvoo, such as the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, whom she saw many times during their life, and also after their death. She used to accompany her brother, Theophilus, to the temple where their father was working, to take his dinner to him. She was quite young when she crossed the plains, and remembered many of the amusing, as well as the pathetic incidents in their long journey to the West.

In 1853 she was married to Sidney H. Epperson, by whom she had 13 children, ten sons and three daughters. In 1859 they came to Midway among the first to settle in this valley. She was chosen as the President of the first Relief Society organized in Midway, and held that position for a number of years. She was always a friend to the poor and needy and her home was open to any who happened her way, and who was hungry or weary. She had a very cheerful, congenial disposition and had many friends.

She was an industrious, hard-working woman. She helped care for the sick. She

was a most devoted mother to her children, always willing to do and sacrifice for their comfort. She died after a brief illness, and was mourned as a loving mother, a kind friend, and a good neighbor. She was always faithful and true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and died as she had lived, a true Latter-day Saint.

Children of Sidney and Mary Jane Epperson were:

Signey Theophilus married Eliza Van Wagenen

Charles Alonzo married Elizabeth B. Coleman

Mary Laverna Epperson married Dean Forrest later John Baum

Jeremiah Albert, single

Tipton Elias married Mary Jane Bonner

Viola Delphina married Adelbert Alexander

Robert Ross married Bertha Drew Springer

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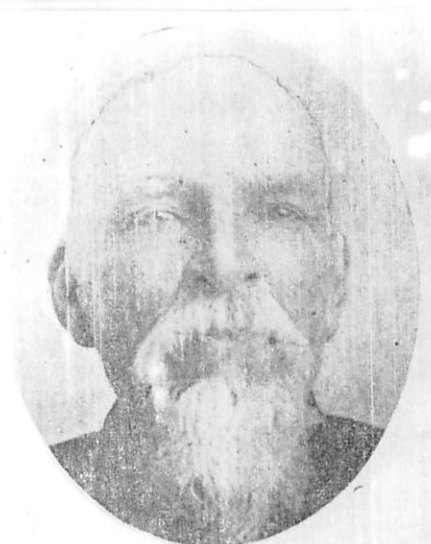
Ruth Lenica married William Mathews,

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Frank Sherman married Ada Mohlman,

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Elmer Drew married Maud Barker, later Mae Davis.



SIDNEY HYRUM EPPERSON

Born in 1832 in Indiana. Came to Utah in 1852, David Wood Company. Bishop Midway Ward.

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burg, which he operated until his death on June 6, 1887. He was active in his church, serving as superintendent of Sunday School in Wallsburg Ward at the time of his death. He was a large, muscular man with a pleasant manner and a fine singing voice, well loved by his family and many friends.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Dabbling made her home with her only son, George A. C. Dabbling, and his family. He had married Ada Glenn, July 3, 1882, in Wallsburg. They had ten children. The family moved from Wallsburg to Provo in 1909.

Mrs. Dabbling lived the remainder of her life with her son's family, settling at Lund, Idaho, on a farm. She was well loved by all who knew her; a small woman, very neat and proper. Although she lived to be nearly 90 years old, her hair never turned gray. She died December 5, 1912, and is buried in the cemetery at Lund, Idaho.

JOHN MEEKS DAVIS

John Meeks Davis, son of William Davis and Margaretta Elsie Meeks, came from Wales and later lived in Nauvoo, Illinois, and Council Bluffs, Iowa. He was born September 9, 1823, and came to Utah in 1854. He married Elizabeth Abshire in 1846 at Nauvoo, and then married America Jane Overlun of Indiana.

With his family John Davis lived for a short time in the Fort String at Midway. Most of his life was spent in Uintah County and Beaver where he was prominent in Church affairs. He was a blacksmith and farmer by profession. He died February 16, 1896 at Vernal and is buried in Beaver County.

SIDNEY HYRUM AND MARY JANE ROBESY EPPERSON



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JOHN ERTSINGER

John Ertsinger and his good wife were Swiss people. They lived where the John Carroll house was built after they left the Fort. Nephi Huber remembers his father, John Huber, telling about how good and kind this old couple was. Mr. Huber praised them for their expansive and profitable vegetable gardens.

JOHN McKEY AND MARY ANN SHELTON FAUSCETT

John McKey Fauscett was born December 22, 1804 in Sweeney County, Tennessee, a son of Richard and Mary McKey Fauscett. He married Margaret Smith in Nauvoo, Ill. Later he married Mary Ann Shelton in Provo. He died March 29, 1874 in Midway.

Mary Ann Shelton was born December 25, 1831, in Missouri, a daughter of Stephen Shelton and Nancy Brown Shelton. She died in Midway August 3, 1900.